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EPA ANNOUNCES COMPLETION OF OMC SUPERFUND CLEANUP IN WAUKEGAN

EPA Region 5 Administrator Valdas V. Adamkus today announced that the Outboard Marine Corp. (OMC) superfund cleanup in Waukegan IL, is--for all practical purposes--complete. Over 1 million lb PCB-contaminated harbor sediments and soils were removed from the environment, making this the largest PCB cleanup of its kind.

Adamkus said: "Today's announcement signals the end of a 15-year effort by EPA to remove PCB-contaminated materials from Waukegan Harbor and nearby OMC property. Not only is the harbor cleaner due to our efforts, but Lake Michigan benefits as well."

The cleanup project, performed under the terms of a 1988 consent decree among OMC, EPA and the State of Illinois, successfully:

- dredged from Upper Waukegan Harbor 300,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediments;
- excavated nearly 700,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated materials from OMC's property;
- treated over 12,500 tons of PCB-contaminated materials on site, separating PCB's from the soils and sediments;
- disposed of nearly 32,000 gallons of PCB's off site;
- created three containment cells to securely store the remainder of the materials; and
- built a new boat slip, because slip #3--the most highly contaminated portion of the harbor--became one of the containment cells.

The 2.5-year project was completed without any harm to the recreational and commercial uses of the harbor.

Adamkus added: "This project followed Superfund's philosophy that local contamination problems should be treated locally and not shipped to other communities. OMC chose, and we approved, the use of the Taciuk Processor, which treated the most-contaminated materials--and that allowed them to be stored on site. The only materials leaving the site were PCB liquids."

This technology was first used to extract oil from shale rock in Canada and adapted for this project. It was operated and evaluated under EPA's Superfund Innovative Technology Evaluation

program, which helps EPA and industry to determine promising and innovative Superfund technologies.

Two land-based containment cells have been completed. Contaminants in the slip #3 containment cell are still settling. Once contaminants settle, the cell will be capped. Like the other two cells, it will be continuously monitored to prevent any contaminants from migrating. EPA will monitor PCB levels in Waukegan Harbor and in water entering Lake Michigan. EPA will also monitor, over time, PCB levels in the air, in fish and in other aquatic life.

The 1988 consent decree created the Waukegan Harbor Trust, funded by OMC. The Trust hired Canonic Environmental Service Corp to do the work. EPA and Illinois EPA oversaw the terms of the decree, while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers supervised the day-to-day work for EPA.

In 1978, EPA filed a Clean Water Act suit against OMC to remove PCB's in the harbor. In 1982, the site was placed on the National Priorities List under superfund and by 1984, EPA chose a \$21 million dollar cleanup plan for the site. Because OMC would not allow site access, the project was delayed. In 1986, Superfund was amended to allow site access for cleanup and, 2 years later the current plan was developed.

Waukegan Harbor has been identified as one of 43 "areas of concern" in the Great Lakes Basin under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement with Canada. An overall cleanup plan, due by fall, is being prepared by Illinois EPA and the local citizens advisory group. That plan will outline other potential problems and cleanups around the harbor.

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